Embracing Joy in the Company of Strangers and Dispelling the Myth of Inherent Unsafety.

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Woodwork has been ongoing at my home for the past month, causing initial discomfort and a sense of lost privacy, especially for someone who values solitude like me. Various individuals have been involved in the process, and the work is still in progress. Nowadays, I've grown accustomed and adjusted my comfort zone based on their presence. Initially, there were many different people, but in recent weeks, only two individuals have been assigned, with the head woodworker being a familiar figure from my childhood (Anbu uncle). As the work nears completion, I anticipate missing the camaraderie formed during the hectic days with these once-strangers. Despite the rush of activity, finding comfort and protection in the presence of these workers has been a unique experience. They seldom spoke or disrupted me, understanding my preferences. People around me often inquire about my safety with them, but my confidence in their presence remains unshaken. Humorously, I refer to them as "anna," and they call me "akka" for any queries 😂. Typically, they seek permission before entering, ask for a charger or water, and inform me before leaving for lunch.

Our conversations mainly revolve around daily routines, with Anbu uncle checking in about my breakfast and my father. The Hindi guy is unfamiliar with Tamil, while the Tamil guy manages to communicate using a few Hindi words with him. Finding the Hindi guy

amusing, I briefly pondered why he wasn't pursuing studies, then decided not to dwell on it. My mother engages in pleasant conversations with them and treats them kindly. One day, when my father came home for lunch, the Tamil guy was working outside, and the Hindi guy was peacefully asleep on the bed in the room 😂. Unaware of this, I initially thought he was working and found it amusing when I discovered the truth😅. The Hindi guy often glances at me as he passes by, not in a negative way but with questioning eyes 🤔. I sense his curiosity about why I'm not moving around, what might be happening in my life, and how I'm faring. Through the years, I've learned to decipher people's perceptions of me through their gazes. Despite attempting to communicate a few times, mostly for a charger, he observes me frequently, trying to understand what I'm up to😄.

It's not that I desire prolonged interaction with people; I prefer solitude due to a fear of judgment and questions about feeling alone or bored😏. My destiny is to be alone, and I am increasingly comfortable with my own company😌. I do, however, enjoy being with new people, but only for a couple of days. While they work, their presence is accompanied by music and occasional singing, making me laugh😄, and sometimes I join in with the flow in my mind. I can sense genuine concern in their eyes, and they now inform me about the absence of anyone at home or receiving parcels from delivery Anna's and getting milk from milk anna. These small gestures include asking whether I had "nashta," to which I initially questioned the meaning but was then pleasantly surprised when they inquired about my breakfast😅. Recently, a Tamil guy, followed by a Hindi guy, and in the past two days, another Tamil guy, who happens to be a singing enthusiast, have joined. In conclusion, I want to express that I miss my own company but still enjoy being with strangers. I don't need them more, but I want to savor this experience. Last but not least, once again, people of unknown origins are proving to be good individuals, challenging the misconception that people are inherently unsafe☺.

"Discover the beauty of missing solitude while finding joy in the company of strangers. I crave not their presence, but the experience they bring. In the unknown, goodness prevails, shattering the misconception that people are inherently unsafe💛."

Tomorrow marks the end of the year, extending my warmest New Year wishes to you all. May the coming year bring you abundant joy and prosperity. Thank you for dispelling my loneliness during these past few days…☺💛☺